

Too Precious to Lose!

Luke 15:8-10; Christ's Object Lessons, pp. 192-197

It's happened to me. It's happened to my next-door neighbor! It may even have happened to you! Can you remember a time when you couldn't find something important to you? In our story today Jesus tells about a woman who lost something important. Perhaps it happened like this . . .

The morning sun warmed the backs of the busy women. Laughter rippled through the group as they shared stories. Laundry day meant hard work, but happy visiting. As the women scrubbed and rinsed they had something new to talk about today. "Have you heard the stories Jesus tells?" asked one.

"They are so interesting," said another. "He understands how we live." Back and forth they talked about seeing the sick people healed, and about the kind things Jesus said.

"I hope to take the children to listen to Him tomorrow," smiled a young mother.

"Oh, I'd love to go along," agreed another. Soon several of the women were making plans for the next day.

Happy children skipped along beside

their mothers the next morning. Excitement was in the air. Soon all the people sat down, and Jesus began to speak. He told them a story about a shepherd losing one of his sheep, and how happy the shepherd felt when he found it.

Then Jesus began to tell a story that the little group of laundry ladies leaned forward to hear.

"There was once a woman who had ten very special silver coins.

They were her dowry."

The women smiled. They knew how special those coins were. A dowry was a



The Message

Jesus looks for me because
I am precious to Him.

Memory Verse

“ ‘For the Son of Man
came to seek and to
save what was lost’ ”
(Luke 19:10, NIV).

present that the husband gave to his bride's family before they were married. Then the money was given to the bride on her wedding day. Many times she made a headband out of it. Other people would see it and know that her husband loved her very much. It was a very special treasure.

Jesus continued His story. "One day the woman lost one of her silver coins."

Oh no! The women thought about the poor woman in the story. That was about the most awful thing

He knew what their homes were like. Because they had small windows or no windows at all, it was dark inside, even in the daytime. There was straw on part of the dirt floor. It would be hard to find a coin.



that could happen to a wife! What would her husband say? What would her neighbors and friends say?

"The lady lit a lamp and began to sweep her house," Jesus went on. "She looked everywhere for her lost coin." Jesus watched the faces of the people listening to His story.

"She kept searching. She just would not give up! On the table, under the table, behind the heavy water pot—she looked and looked! She searched the dirt floor. Suddenly she saw it! 'I've found it!' she cried, quickly picking up the smooth coin. Dashing outside she ran to her neighbors and friends. 'Come and celebrate with me! I lost

one of my coins, and now I've found it! "

Many in the crowd laughed with relief. Jesus laughed with them. With a twinkle in His eye He added, "That's the kind of celebration angels have when God finds and rescues a lost person."



S A B B A T H

DO Go outside and hide a coin. Then ask your family to find it. Say “hot” if they are near it and “cold” if they are far away. After they find it, sit down together and read today’s Bible story.

DO Look at the coin. Is it dirty? When the woman found her coin, it was probably dirty, but it had not lost its value. That is how God feels about people. They may have sinned, but they are still valuable to God.

READ Read and discuss Luke 19:10 together. Then thank Jesus for coming to save you.

Floors in Bible houses were often dirt covered with rushes (reeds). It was easy to lose something in them.



S U N D A Y

DO Flip a coin with family members who can read. Those who get “heads” are to read Luke 15:8 together. The woman had ten coins. She lost one. How many are left?

DO Make one cardboard coin for each word of your memory verse and one for the Bible text. Write one word on each coin. Arrange the coins in order and say the verse.

M O N D A Y

READ Read Luke 15:8, 9 for family worship. Then set a timer for five minutes. How many things can you find that were mentioned in our Bible story?

DO Look in a dictionary to learn more about the word *dowry*.

DO Arrange your memory verse coins and say the verse together.

SING Sing “Amazing Grace” (*The SDA Hymnal*, No. 108). Then thank Jesus for His grace.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read and discuss Luke 15:10 for family worship. Think of someone you know who recently accepted Jesus. Have an “angel” party for family worship. Decide how to celebrate. Read Luke 15:10 again. Then pray for that person and thank Jesus for saving him or her.

SING Sing “Bless His Holy Name” (*Sing for Joy*, No. 9). Then arrange your memory verse coins from memory.

W E D N E S D A Y

SHARE Read or recite John 3:16 for family worship. Ask your family: How is this verse connected with this week’s lesson?

DO Did you give the money gift you made in Sabbath School to someone? (Make some paper money. Draw a friend’s picture on the front. Write on the back: “You are worth a lot to God, much more than all the money in the world!” Then tell them the Bible story.)

PRAY Ask Jesus to bless the person you gave your money gift to.



THURSDAY

READ Read and discuss 1 John 3:16 with your family. How is this verse like John 3:16? How special are you to God? How is each family member special to Him? To you?

SING Make up a tune for your memory verse and sing it together.

DO Make a small gift for each member of your family to show that they are special to you. It could be a bookmark or a picture, or something else. Save them for Friday evening worship.

FRIDAY

DO Act out this week's Bible story with your family. Then say your memory verse together.

DO Say to your family, "I made a gift for each of you because you are very special to me—like the coin was special to the woman." Then talk about what God did for each one that shows they are special to Him.

READ Read and discuss together Ephesians 1:7, 8.

SING Sing "God Is So Good" (Sing for Joy, No. 13) before prayer. Thank God for your family.

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PUZZLE

Directions: God cares more for each person than the woman cared about her missing coin. Help this woman through the maze to find her lost coin.

